

Message Text

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42

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5724

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0005

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO

SUBJECT: PLO DISCUSSES STRATEGY FOR JAN. 12
SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE

1. SUMMARY: DEC. 23-24 MEETINGS OF PLO EXCOMM AND CENTRAL COUNCIL WITNESSED FERMENT ON ISSUES OF PALESTINIAN ROLE IN JAN. SC DEBATE AND PALESTINIAN RELATIONSHIP TO PEACE PROCESS. EXCOMM REPORTEDLY DEBATED PROPOSAL TO PUBLICLY ACCEPT WEST BANK STATE, LINK STATE TO FUTURE SECULAR DEMOCRATIC STATE IN ALL OF PALESTINE, AND RENOUNCE TERRORISM. CENTRAL COUNCIL AGREED UPON SC STRATEGY WHICH IN PART WOULD CALL FOR REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS ON PALESTINE BEGINNING IN 1947. END SUMMARY.

2. PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET FOR FOUR HOURS DEC. 23 THEN ADJOURNED TO CONVENE MEETING OF PALESTINE CENTRAL COUNCIL WHICH LASTED FOR SEVEN HOURS INTO EARLY MORNING HOURS OF DEC. 24. EXCOMM RESUMED SESSION DEC. 24 "TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL'S EXTRAORDINARY MEETING." AT CONCLUSION OF
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CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING CHAIRMAN KHALID AL-FAHUM STATED THAT

DISCUSSION HAD CENTERED ON SITUATION IN LEBANON AND STRATEGY FOR JAN. SC DEBATE. VOP BROADCAST REPORTED THAT COUNCIL "ADOPTED NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL FORM BASIS OF PALESTINIAN DELEGATION ACTIONS AT SECURITY COUNCIL."

3. PRIOR TO DEC. 23-24 MEETING, WE RECEIVED HINT CONCERNING DIRECTION OF PALESTINIAN THINKING ON FUTURE STRATEGY. WESTERN EMBASSY SOURCE BRIEFED US ON TALKS HE HELD WITH FAHUM PRECEDING CENTRAL COUNCIL SESSION. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, FAHUM STATED THAT PALESTINIANS PLEASED WITH WAY THINGS WERE PROCEEDING, BUT WERE NOT APPROACHING SC DEBATE WITH HIGH EXPECTATIONS. FAHUM FORESAW POSSIBILITY OF RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE FOLLOWING DEBATE. FAHUM CLAIMED THAT US WOULD NOT BE READY FOR CONTACTS WITH PLO IN 1976 OR 1977 (SOURCE COMMENTED HERE THAT FAHUM PERHAPS INDIRECTLY EXPRESSING PLO RELUCTANCE TO HOLD CONTACTS DURING THIS TIME FRAME).

4. MFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SHOEFI DEC. 24 ADVISED EMBOFF THAT HE "UNDERSTOOD" EXCOMM HAD DEBATED THREE-POINT PROPOSAL TO OFFER PUBLICLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH SC DEBATE: PLO CALL FOR CREATION OF WEST BANK STATE, PEACEFUL EVOLUTION OF TIES WITH ISRAEL IN DIRECTION OF FUTURE DEMOCRATIC SECULAR STATE, AND RENUNCIATION OF TERRORISM. SHOEFI ASSERTED HE NOT AWARE WHETHER EXCOMM HAD ADOPTED PROPOSAL.

5. EMBOFF MET DEC. 30 WITH PALESTINIAN SOURCE AND ASKED ABOUT RESULTS OF PLO MEETINGS PREVIOUS WEEK. SOURCE REVEALED THAT HE HAD VISITED "LONG TIME FRIEND" ABU MAYZAR DEC. 28 AND HAD READ PORTIONS OF PLO STRATEGY PAPER FOR SC DEBATE. BASIC PLO APPROACH, WHICH SOURCE CLAIMED FULLY COORDINATED WITH SARG, WOULD BE REVIEW OF ALL UN RESOLUTIONS PERTAINING TO PALESTINE SINCE 1947. WHEN ASKED WHAT PLO INTENDED TO DO ABOUT RES 242, SOURCE NOTED THAT 242 WAS UNACCEPTABLE AS STARTING POINT FOR REDRESSING OF PALESTINIAN GREIVANCES BECAUSE "242 WAS PRODUCT OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN 1967, BUT ORIGIN OF PALESTINE ISSUE IN UN GOES BACK TO 1947." FOLLOWING REVIEW OF ALL UN RESOLUTIONS, PLO WOULD DEMAND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. SOURCE PROFESSED UNCERTAINTY WHETHER PLO WOULD PROPOSE ANY AMENDMENTS TO 242. HE ADDED THAT PLO WOULD APPEAL FOR FUTURE CREATION OF SECULAR DEMOCRATIC STATE BUT WOULD ALSO REPEAT

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WILLINGNESS TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY OVER ANY LIBERATED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, IN LINE WITH POSITION ADOPTED BY PALESTINE NATIONAL CONGRESS IN 1974.
MURPHY

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